

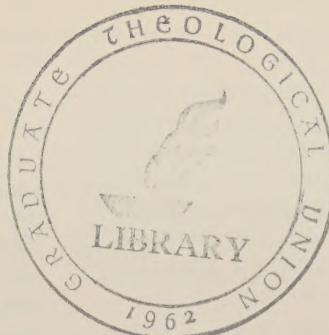
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No. 3

# Leaves of Healing



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## God's Plan—Our Good

By General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen

As we go through life, we dream plan for good things to happen. However, all of our plans do not turn out as anticipated. We plan for "good" things and seek to avoid "hard" things because we fail to see the benefits of the hard things. Frequently it is a "hard" thing that makes us tender and humane, building character and maturing us believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. If possible, Job would have avoided at all costs the trials that came upon him, yet these trials were "good" in God's plan for him. He needed to see the good until the trials were all over. His wife and friends also misinterpreted the events, lacking the faith to see God's good will in the hard things that came upon Job.

Soon after I became a Christian, my dear aunt stopped by to see me one day. Trying to be helpful, she said, "Roger, don't get too serious about this religion business. It's true, and there's nothing wrong with it, but if you aren't careful, it might affect the way you live." My dear aunt was a very nice lady, and her concern for me was evident. But, her understanding of what was best for me was certainly far off the mark. Her concept of religion was something you turn

to when all else fails. I'll never forget her pastor, talking to me one day after a visit with my aunt in her home. During the conversation with her, he had mentioned that their church board had voted to go to two morning worship services instead of one. Then, chuckling, he said to me, "Now she can stay home from two services a week instead of one."

God has a plan for our life and that plan is for our ultimate good. God's plan is based on his love and wisdom. That plan includes not only our salvation, but our daily keeping as well. He saved us by his grace and he keeps us by his grace. That is why Apostle Paul could write:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

-- Phil. 4: 6, 7

God is good. I am convinced of that. Yet I must report that I don't always practice that confidence in my daily life. When sudden difficulties come, I find myself saying, "Why, Lord?" "I am trying to live for you and serve you. Why do you let this happen to me? Why me,

Lord?" Have you ever said something like that to God?

We need to wrestle with this truth and come to that kind of assurance that says, "Lord, I belong to you, and I know that whatever comes across my path is for my ultimate good." There is a little poem written by Grant Culfax Tullar called "The Weaver" which I have often read at funerals. It goes like this:

My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me,  
I cannot choose the colors  
He worketh steadily.  
  
Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow,  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I, the underside.  
  
Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.  
  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

In thinking of the theme of God's plan for our lives, I am reminded of the life of Joseph recorded for us in Genesis 37-50. I have read his life story over and over again and have been deeply impressed with the faith and character of that man. Joseph

had experienced much in the way of suffering. He was hated by his brothers for four reasons: first, he was the favorite son of his father; secondly, he did not approve of the wicked activities of his brothers; thirdly, he reported these wicked deeds to his father; and fourthly, he had two dreams which indicated that he would be elevated high above his brothers and that they would bow down to him.

One day, Joseph's father, Jacob, sent him to look for his brethren who were keeping sheep some distance away and bring him word of their welfare. As he neared the place where his brothers were, they saw him coming and determined to get rid of him. Through the intervention of Reuben, they decided not to kill him, but to throw him into a pit. Later, spotting a group of Ishmaelite merchants traveling on their way to Egypt, they decided to sell him to them and then report to their father that he had been killed by some animal.

Joseph was in turn sold as a slave to Potipher in Egypt. Instead of rebelling and doing as little as possible, Joseph made the best of the situation, serving Potipher with all the heart. God's blessing was so upon Potipher for Joseph's sake, he put Joseph completely in charge of all that he had.

Joseph was seventeen years of age when taken into Egypt. He must have been a good looking young man, for after some time, Potipher's wife became greatly attracted to him. On several occasions, she tempted Joseph to have a relationship with her but he steadfastly refused. One day, when she had found that she was alone with Joseph in the house, she grabbed him, and urged him to have relations with her. His immediate response was to get away from her as fast as he could and in so doing, he left his outer garment with her. Thwarted in her desires, she determined to get revenge and so crying loudly to the other servants, she accused Joseph of attacking her with immoral intent. When her husband returned home, she accused Joseph to him, and Potipher had Joseph put in prison. But even there, Joseph did his best and we read, "God was with Joseph."

In God's time, He brought him out of prison and he became the second ruler in all the land of Egypt.

Joseph married and he named his firstborn son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me to forget all my troubles, and all my father's household." Do you know what that tells me? It tells me that even though Joseph was a faithful and godly man, he also experienced trouble and discouragement. Every time he thought about his brothers, he very likely was saddened. I can understand that. No doubt for years, first as a slave, later while in prison, and even when he had been elevated to a high position, he questioned, "Why, Lord, did you let this happen to me?" He experienced discouragement because he was human. He did not understand the reasons for all his trials, but he accepted them and continued to trust God and to do his best. Then, when his first son was born, he named him Manasseh. The word Manasseh, means "making to forget". By God's grace, he was able to put his trials behind him. That meant forgiving and forgetting the evil of his brothers in selling him into slavery as well as those who mistreated him while in Egypt.

The day finally came when his brothers stood before him in Egypt to buy grain for their household as the famine was also very severe in Caanan. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. It was not because he was revengeful or speaking out of hatred, but he wanted to test them to see whether their attitude had changed. How the tables had changed! Their lives now depended upon him. Just a word from Joseph and all his brethren could have been slain or put into prison. Instead, after testing them to see what their hearts were like, and finding that they had been humbled and were sorry for the way they had treated Joseph, he could delay no longer in revealing himself to them.

Then Joseph could not control himself before all them who stood by him: and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man

with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were terrified at his presence.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me. I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold in Egypt.

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me here; for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:1-5

Joseph had gone through some very hard experiences, the kind that leave others bitter and hateful. Through it all, he maintained a trust in God and later was able to see how God had used it for good. Notice again verse 5, where he said to his brethren, "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me here; for God did send me before you to preserve life." And in verse 8 he said, "So now it was not you that sent me here, but God."

Are you going through a discouraging time? Then take to heart that great promise found in Isaiah 41:10:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

The use of God's "right hand" refers to the exceeding greatness of his power to help.

Another of God's great promises is found in Isaiah 43 beginning with the last part of verse one, where he says:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

the waters and the rivers and the speak of difficult and dangerous nations in life. God's word to us those times is "Fear not, for I with thee."

God's desire and will for us is good. But God alone knows what is the good and how to work in our lives. That good may be hidden from our eyes and we are only to trust him to work it. Most Christians are acquainted with the verse found in Romans 8:8:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

It is one thing to be able to repeat the verse by memory; it is quite another to practice it in our lives. Yet at a time of trial or discouragement, we need to claim that promise for ourselves. Notice the opening words in that verse:

## Loren Stried Honored at Father-Son Banquet



Mr. Anderson reading the MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD plaque which was presented Loren Stried.

At the Annual Father and Son banquet on February 20th, Loren Stried was presented with the MAN OF THE YEAR award by Dick Anderson, Director of Youth of the Christian Catholic Church of Zion. Mr. Stried has been a faithful servant of the Lord and a member of the church for many years. He has served in the Boy Scout Organization for twenty-two years, in Zion Passion Play for sixteen years, in Youth Activities (Junior High School) and as program Director of the Junior Girls for sixteen years, and has been serving on the Youth Commission for the past two years.

The very delicious meal was served by ladies of the church under the direction of Jean Storey, Mrs. Carson and Ethel Howard, with help from Rev. Jabez Taylor, made the unique table decorations using

the theme of the miracle "Loaves and fishes."

Music for the occasion was provided by the Youth Choir with special puppet effects by Bruce Otterbacher and Karen Richards.

Speaker for the evening was Mr. Van Crouch, former basketball coach on staff at Indiana University and later at Colorado State University. He became an Account Executive at American Express, and later joined the New York Life Insurance Company where he has become a distinguished member of the company's elite President's Council. His message was humorous but hard-hitting. In it he shared his personal testimony and made the Gospel plain. He came to us through the Youth for Christ organization to whom he donates much of his time for speaking engagements.

The banquet was attended by about 250 fathers and sons and it was indeed a blessed evening. Putting on such a banquet is a lot of work and we wish to thank each one who helped. Special thanks goes again to the Cake Box for roasting the meat and cooking the potatoes, to Bob Oakes for the art-work on the programs, and to Mrs. Neave for providing the jello salads.

### LEAVES OF HEALING

Dowie Memorial Drive  
Zion, Illinois 60099

Roger W. Ottersen, Editor  
Earl L. Minton, Associate Editor

"And we KNOW that all things work together for good." All things work together for good because it is God who works all things together for good. It is not blind faith or accident. Other good verses for you to meditate on and claim are: II Timothy 1:12, I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:12, 17; I Peter 2:24, 25; and 5:7; and I Corinthians 12:7-9:

"God's will – your good."

## Camp Zion

Of all the great experiences of life, attending Camp Zion rates very high. Again, every effort is being made to keep costs down. However, at \$7.00 per day (the approximate fee charged) it is a great bargain. The fee covers only a part of the actual cost. The balance is provided by donations and projects which earn money, and memorial gifts. Land and building improvement is provided for largely by the church and is budgeted yearly.

During May and June, work parties will be going up most weekends to get the camp in shape. You may share in the vital camp ministry by joining a work party, praying for the staff and campers, helping toward scholarship funds for those unable to pay the full amount, or by direct donations to the church for camp equipment. Most of all, we hope you will be able to attend one of the periods.

### WHAT IS NEW FOR '79?

A Father/Son camping weekend is scheduled for June 8-10. Young adults may attend the June 29 - July 1st weekend, or stay for a longer period, June 29 - July 4. The Adult Camp is scheduled this summer for June 18-21.

### CAMP DATES

Father/Son	June 8-10
Adult Camp	June 18-21
Primary Camp	June 25-28
Young Adult	June 29-July 1 or June 29-July 4
Junior Girls	July 5-14
Junior High	July 16-28
High School	July 30-Aug. 11
Junior Boys	Aug. 13-22
Family Camp	Aug. 31-Sept. 3

# MISSIONS

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." *III John 8.*

## MADDI, EGYPT

Letter from Randy and Nancy Capp

Dear Friend,

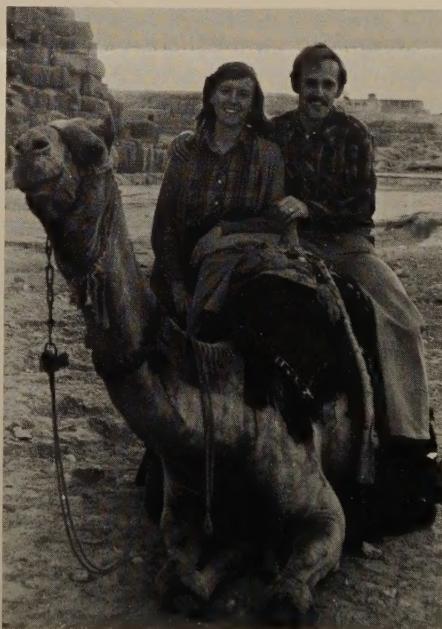
As you know, we are involved in a mass media outreach to Muslims. The main project under way at this time is the production of the Arabic magazine MAGALLA. Misconceptions of Christianity in the Muslim Middle East have built up over hundreds of years. The magazine is designed to present spoonfuls of truth about God and His Good News one issue at a time. One issue dealt with the reality of God's holiness and justice. The inevitable result of sin is punishment. Another issue dealt with the critical need for a relationship with God not just a religion. It is our hope that these longheld misconceptions of Christianity can be torn away and that the Muslim readers can eventually come to a full knowledge of our God!

We would be overjoyed to fully and boldly proclaim the message of salvation in each issue. But it is a simple fact that evangelistic publications will never openly make it past the censors in governments where Islam is the state religion, and in which there is little or no witness for Jesus. This project looks to the future, hoping the seeds planted now, one by one, will result in a vast spiritual harvest in the coming years.

The magazines are sold (depending on the economic situation of each country for between 14¢ and 50¢) out in the streets by magazine venders - most of whom are Muslim! Recently, tentative approval has come from Syria regarding distribution of 5,000 copies of each MAGALLA issue. Praise God for this! We are also praying for open doors in Tunisia and Iraq. Recently, a worker in Tunisia volunteered to do some essential groundwork there! She was not solicited by us, but came forward under the Lord's direction. We praise Him for all these things! Also, 100 copies of each issue are regularly sent to Israel. Last month

upon request, 400 additional copies were sent to a secondary school on the West Bank! Not only has God been using these magazines to reach the Muslim youth, but they have also been a wonderful help to Arab believers. Often being subjected to various persecutions, it is a tremendous encouragement to see a magazine containing their own beliefs being sold right out in the street!

Nancy is working as the team bookkeeper. This involves several bank accounts and several different currencies. She has had a real struggle adjusting to life in Egypt, especially to life as a woman in a Muslim culture. Housekeeping here poses some special problems. Cooking on a two burner, propane tank stove with an oven measuring 9" x 11" by 14" is a real trick . . . but, she turns out excellent meals.



Randy and Nancy Capp, needing transportation, tried several modes before settling on bicycles.

As a team we have been undergoing many trials. First, team leader Terry Ascott contracted a severe case of hepatitis. Except for the Lord's special healing his full recovery will take several months. The situation was compounded when his wife Jackie, in her eighth month of pregnancy, contracted the

disease too. Through the kindness of local believers, she was flown to England with their two small boys for treatment. They both contracted the disease also. Jackie gave birth to a baby girl only eight hours after stepping off the plane. Later, we discovered that Jackie's parents who visited the Middle East two months ago, came down with several cases as well.

We know these were attacks by the enemy to demoralize the team. But they are only knockdown blows, not knockout blows. We think of 2 Corinthians 4:7,8 how Paul was "afflicted in every way but not crushed".

In this seemingly disastrous situation, God is working. He allowed this from the beginning and is now using it for His glory. Because of Terry's absence, all of us are being stretched into new responsibilities. All of us must lean on God more heavily, and discover in new way His total sufficiency. He is molding a more effective team.

Nancy and I can see God working within us, drawing us closer to Him, allowing the trials Nancy and I can see God working within us drawing us closer to Him, allowing the trials necessary to make us realize more and more our dependency. My personal Bible studies are centering around the book of Revelation. In the fifth chapter John was before the one on the throne who held the scroll waiting to be opened. The scroll represented God's plan for the culmination of this age! But no one could be found who was worthy to open it. John wept at the prospect of God's plan being thwarted. Then one was found . . . the Lion of Judah. But when John looked to the Lion he was not a lion, but a lamb! Such is our wonderful Saviour and Lord. The coming, conquering, almighty Lion-King who became for us a quiet sacrificial lamb!

Please join with us in prayer for the Muslim Middle East. Please pray for open doors for MAGALLA.

# For Praise & Prayer

urbation in Tunisia and Iraq.  
We pray for God's anointing on  
writers and artists of MAGALLA!  
Rather in 1979 let's "expect  
things from God, and attempt  
things for God".

Working with you, for Him,  
Randy and Nancy

rn address:  
de East Media  
Box 82  
ield, Illinois 60015 USA

ID AND CAROLYN SWITZER  
CHERYL DREYER  
VENEZUELA



David and Carolyn Switzer

After a two month delay in obtaining visas to enter the country David and Carolyn (Dreyer) Switzer daughter, Cheryl Dreyer, left February 24th for Venezuela. Switzer's responsibility will primarily in the expansion program of the Evangelical Seminary of Venezuela which is jointly sponsored by The Evangelical Alliance Mission and The Evangelical Church of America.

In 1958, fully 80% of the population of Venezuela were illiterate. Twenty years later, the illiteracy had dropped to less than 20%. In 1976, over one fourth of the Venezuelan population were illiterate. Where in 1960 only 77 Venezuelans were pursuing university level educational goals, in 1976, there were 256,979 enrolled in the country's institutions of higher education.

In 1969, the Seminario Evangelico Asociado opened its doors under the leadership of Rev. James Savage, with six full time students. After five years of slow growth, the student body is now seeing very rapid growth with forty-three full time students enrolled in the 1977/78 school year. To keep up with this rapid growth with facilities, staff, and stewardship promotion is the main reason Mr. Switzer was asked to go to Venezuela. He will be working with both missionaries (and mission boards) and the national church in promotion and building.

**PRAYER NEEDS:** For wisdom and guidance, patience and grace for David. Remember Carolyn as she seeks to improve in language skills and in her roll as wife and mother. Pray for Cheryl as she begins school and language study.

## WRITE TO THEM!

c/o Seminario Evangelico Asociado  
Apartado 475  
Maracay 2KO, Aragua, Venezuela

**LETTER FROM PAT HERMOSILLA,  
PHILIPPINES TO GENEVIEVE  
PETERS (DORCAS CIRCLE)**

Dear Mrs. Peters,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

I hope that you have received our Christmas greetings. My wife and children were very delighted and thankful about your goodness and care towards me when I was there at Zion. Certainly, the memory of my last visit to the people in the City of God will never be forgotten.

The bags of clothing that you sent just arrived yesterday. Praise the Lord that we got them without much red tape. They will surely be of great help to our people especially to the poor who can't afford to buy good kind of clothings. I praise the Lord for your ministry. In fact, the Dorcas in our church were greatly challenged when I shared with them about your

activities and involvement in the Lord's work. Now they have reactivated themselves and show much concern and involvement in the Lord's work.

In behalf of the congregations in Luzon, I am thanking you and the rest of the Dorcas for your ministry and labor of love. Please convey our thanks also to the people who have good hearts in sending those clothings to us in the Philippines.

Regards to Mr. Peters and the entire fellowship. May God bless you more abundantly!

Faithfully in Christ,  
Rev. Pat N. Hermosilla

**LETTER FROM REV. SAMUEL HARRICHAND, TORONTO, CAN.**

Dear Brother Roger,

Grace and Peace and Joy be multiplied unto you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Your letter of January 5th was carefully read and noted. Our church secretary read it out to our Fellowship here on Sunday, January 14th at our Second Anniversary Celebration. Your tape-recorded message was also played and listened to with rapt attention. Rev. James Seunarine of the United Church of Canada also gave a challenging message from II Corinthians 5:17. There were 104 in attendance at our Second Anniversary Service.

The addition by our Lord to His Church - our Assembly - of brothers Clifford Juby and Ron Danny Luk, has been the highlight of our activities in Toronto during 1978. Their interest in the Church Services has been a source of encouragement to our Fellowship. We praise and thank God for restoring unto them the Joy of His Salvation.

Our sincere thanks are due to Almighty God for pouring His special blessing upon us during 1978. We resolve in the strength of our Lord in 1979, to "Press toward the Mark for the Prize of

the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We wish to thank our Administrative Council in Zion for our revised By-Laws of the Christian Catholic Church of Toronto, Canada. These are now in the hands of our lawyer in connection with registration.

Our son James, by the help of God, is making good progress in his studies for the ministry at the Central Baptist Seminary in Toronto. We pray and trust that when time permits, he will have the privilege to visit our headquarters church in Zion. We thank you for your prayers and concern for James.

We are presently working on a plan to conduct our First Convocation in Toronto for eight days during the 6th and 13th of August, 1979.

Once again, we respectfully beg to assure Zion of our appreciation for all the help we have been receiving from our Headquarters Church. Our fellowship in Toronto has decided to remit to you \$20.00 monthly for Zion's Missionary Program.

Salute our C. C. Church in Zion for us and greet sister Gaylene and the children from us.

Accept our kind regards and love.

Yours in His love & Service,  
Samuel Harrichand

#### LETTER FROM LARRY & JAN ALLEN

Dear Friends,

Sometimes letters bring good news, sometimes bad news. As we tore open the letter from the Adult Education Coordinator in Kibungan, back in the Philippines, we braced ourselves for bad news about the teach-your-neighbor literacy program that was just getting off the ground when we left Kibungan last February. Under the terms of this program, volunteers, mostly housewives, were to recruit their own students and teach them to read and write, using a primer Jan had designed. Their pay, two dollars for every student who passed the final exam, was to come from a fund raised by the sale of used clothes. As the months wore on with no news whatsoever,

we figured the program must have turned out to be a flop. So what a surprise to hear that five volunteers were claiming their due reward for 54 new readers (out of a total of 66 students)! To those of you who donated clothes, a big thank you. Let's pray now that these 54 readers will practice their newfound skill on the portions of God's Word already translated into Kankanaey.

A second good-news letter arrived from just a few blocks away, the University of Illinois. It appears that I passed the three qualifying exams taken a few weeks ago, so if I maintain good grades in my present courses and manage to pass the fourth exam to be given later this spring, I'll receive my

M.A. in Linguistics at the end of this semester. Thank you so much for praying. The battle of the book is by no means over, but at least some of the pressure is off now.

In family news, Jan has just finished typing up 486 pages of the Kankanaey-English dictionary. You should have heard the sigh of relief that echoed through our apartment. Christy and Marty are proving to be quite creative, contented playmates indoors. We've taken the sledging a few times, but Marty especially appears to recall his Philippine upbringing and reacts to snow and ice as if they were undesirable entities to be avoided whenever possible.

Joyfully in Christ,

Larry, Jan, Christy & Marty Allen

## Priceless Valentine Gift

On Tuesday, February 13th, the Christian Catholic Church celebrated Valentine's Day, early, in a different way by hosting a blood drive, which was sponsored by the North Suburban Blood Center.

Fifty-seven people rolled up their sleeves and went "under the needle" and another fifteen volunteered but for some reason of health were sent home with an "I Tried" button.

Blood is a priceless commodity, needed for the saving of lives, but unlike medicine, it cannot be manufactured. It can only come

as a gift from another human being. Over ten million pints of blood are transfused each year in the United States alone, and the need for blood keeps increasing. Giving blood is a beautiful way of saying "I love you!" to another person made in God's image, and of saying "Thank you!" to Jesus Christ who gave His blood for us.

To all who volunteered their time and services during the program and to all who volunteered to give blood, Pastor Otters wishes to express his sincere gratitude.



On tables giving blood, l. to r. are Finley Gustafson, Marceil Keller, and Jeff Binninger.

# Testimony of Gary Childers



and Alisa (Capp) Childers and son, Jeremiah.

ave many things to be thankful for because of the mercy shown to me by Jesus Christ. In the summer of 1977, I left the Zion area in Mississippi, with my wife, Alisa, and baby, Jeremiah. We ended up in Cleveland, Mississippi. I felt that something or someone was out to get me. Yet there seemed to be nothing from this thing that was getting me, usually at nights.

I couldn't sleep because of a ringing noise I heard at nights. I knew something was terribly wrong with me but I was afraid to tell anyone about it. Finally, I decided to tell my wife and also to see a psychiatrist. I was told that my problem was due to my addiction to drugs and alcohol and that I was experiencing mental flash backs. I entered the hospital for treatment.

Like many others in deep trouble, I began reading the Bible. However, the psychiatrist discouraged my continued reading so I stopped, despite my wife's encouragement to continue.

Within a short time I got out. My first thought was, "Great, I can go back to doing the things I had been doing since eighteen — drinking, etc. How could God have had other plans for me?"

During the summer of 1978 I felt "possessed." I lost twenty pounds in about a month for I hardly eat or sleep. I was

haunted by voices and noises both day and night and I finally realized that I was possessed by demons or unclean spirits. I suffered terrible nightmares.

One night I had a dream in which I was encouraged to resist the enemy through the Holy Spirit. Also, my whole life with all of my sins seemed to flash through my mind. In my dream I was also told that I would find my answer in the book of Hebrews.

At first I was fearful of reading the book of Hebrews and so hesitated for some time before picking it up. How wonderful that book became to me. In it I learned of God's love for me through Jesus Christ. I saw that Jesus Christ's one sacrifice for our sins was sufficient for all time and that it must be received through faith.

The next day, being Sunday, I went to church. The minister had chosen as his text for that day, Matthew 10:37-39

*'He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me.'*

*'And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.'*

*'He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.'*

I knew that God was speaking to me and I knew in my heart that I really wanted to be His child. I also knew that God used that dream to speak to me in a way that I would listen. I know I have been born again.

Since then, God has given to me — and to us — a happy home-life. He has also given me a burning desire to witness for him. I have also been enrolled in Moody Bible Institute Correspondence Courses in Bible, and God has even given me opportunity to preach the Gospel in our church in Mississippi, and to share in other churches. Praise the Lord!

Gary Childers

## FAITH FOR YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW BUT NOT TODAY

C. S. Lewis once said that when Christians look to the future, they are theists: they trust their God to get them out of hell and into heaven. And when they look to the past, they're also theists, thanking their God for His provision. But when Christians look to the present, they're often atheists: they speak and act as if God isn't there.

I remember well a church that had recently acquired a new pastor. During his first year of ministry, many people were converted, especially men, and there was joy and enthusiasm in the services. God's blessing was also reflected in the budget, which had at least tripled during the year. At the Annual Meeting, there were many "Praise the Lords" as the blessings of the year were reviewed. However, when the budget for the next year was up for consideration, there seemed to be a sudden shifting of gears in the mind. Faith faltered. Everyone loved the pastor and was grateful for the good work being accomplished, and everyone would really like to see his pay raised, but . . . with so many out of work, and money being so tight . . . they just didn't feel they could afford it. The same grave concern was voiced when the subject of increasing the missions budget was discussed.

In Deuteronomy 25:4 God said through Moses:

*"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the grain."*

Why did God give this command? Because God is just and it is just and right for a beast or a person to receive a just reward for work. Also, it is certainly true that a well fed ox (or person) can do better work than a poorly fed one. Animals and people alike respond to kindness and consideration. The Apostle Paul twice quoted this verse from Deuteronomy with reference to the salary of a pastor. The lesson he taught from it was expressed in I Timothy 5:17, 18. (Williams translation).

"Elders who do their duties well should be considered as

deserving twice the salary they get, especially those who keep on toiling in preaching and teaching."

For the Scripture says, 'You must not muzzle an ox when he is treading out the grain,' and, 'The workman deserves his pay.' (See also I Corinthians 9:7-18)

We cannot completely dismiss the practical side when considering the budget of the church. We need to be realistic, but not fearful. We must ever look to God and not to circumstances when setting the budget. We must seek His guidance and be willing to stretch ourselves in doing His work - for the glory of His name. I am quite sure that had Paul and Barnabas been completely realistic when facing a hostile world with the Gospel, they never would have made that first missionary journey. They had to get their eye off of the circumstances and difficulties and onto a God who had commanded and who was able to give them victory.

Oh, by the way, the church referred to earlier in this article did eventually decide to "stretch themselves" and had the joy of seeing God provide for them in marvelous ways as they grew in depth and in numbers.

-- Earl Minton

### HINTS OF SPRING

Maple trees dripping sap,  
Little chicks growing fat.  
No snow left on the ground,  
Greening grass all around.  
Singing birds, blooming trees,  
Fragrant scents on the breeze.  
Little boy catching fish,  
What more joy could one wish.  
Winter's o'er, 'bye old thing,  
We prefer nice, new spring.

-- Eli R. Bartoo

### IN MEMORIAM

Carl Mischler  
Florida, February 10, 1979

Mrs. U. S. Grant (Lucille) Biddle,  
nee Martin  
Zion, February 24, 1979

Mrs. Finley C. (Mabel) Gustafson,  
nee Dulmage  
Zion, February 27, 1979

Sylvester F. Taylor  
Zion, March 4, 1979

### J. C. PENNEY MAY LOSE TV ADVERTISING TIME

J. C. Penney is one company that makes every effort to place their ads only on constructive TV programs. As a result, they may be penalized by the networks. I quote one paragraph from a letter written by Mr. James F. Boynton, Media Manager of J. C. Penney:

"We dropped out of one unacceptable movie last week and two this week, and it has gotten to the point where the networks are talking about relinquishing our time commitments. Nevertheless, we are still going to cancel whenever it is necessary." (Quoted from the December Issue of the National Federation for Decency.)

As those who appreciate a stand for righteousness and decency in a day when so many are compromising, a word of encouragement to them would be most appropriate. Such a company ought also to be supported with our trade.

Write to:

Chairman Donald V. Seibert  
J. C. Penney Co.  
1301 Ave. of the Americas  
New York, N. Y. 10019

If we keep silent and do nothing about sinful practices,  
Then we should not complain when evil triumphs.

### NEWS NOTES

TO GUYANA. Rev. Gerald Mason and our Business Manager, Mr. Calvin Weese left on Thursday, March 1st, for Guyana. While there they will share at a Pastor's Conference of C.C.C. ministers and visit as many churches as possible.

REV. LELAND BARTON left for Phoenix on March 3rd to recuperate from a virus infection which laid him low just after Thanksgiving. Finding that it was taking so long to regain his strength he was advised by a local Christian doctor to go to Phoenix where he could get more exercise in the warm sunshine. In less than a week he was walking four miles a day and beginning to feel much better. We pray for a full recovery.

GROUND WAS BROKEN in a brief ceremony on Sunday, March 4th, for the new building addition. Work is expected to commence on March 5th.

C.C.C. BASKETBALL TEAM took first place in the area Church League and will be awarded its 1st place trophy on March 9th at Pearce Campus.

A FOUR CHOIR CONCERT will be given at Grace Missionary Church on Sunday evening, March 11th, featuring praise songs by Bill Gaither. The Concert is called "Alleluia," and will be sung by the choirs of The Christian Assembly of God, Lakeview, Grace Missionary, and the Christian Catholic Church.

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 8-15, 1979



Guest speaker for the Holy Week Services will be Dr. Warren Wiersbe, widely known Bible teacher, radio speaker, and author. Until recently he was also pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, a ministry he loved but which he felt necessary to relinquish to give more time to Bible teaching, writing, and conference speaking.

From 1957-1961, he was on the staff of Youth for Christ International, Wheaton, Illinois, directing the organization's publications ministry and, for two years, editing Youth for Christ Magazine, now called Campus Life. He is the author of more than thirty books and has edited and compiled several others.

He will speak at both the Palm Sunday Worship and Vesper Services and throughout the week, Monday through Friday with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. Following the Good Friday evening message a baptismal service will be conducted for those desiring to obey God in baptism.

On Easter morning, Dr. Norman Geisler will speak at the 6:30 Sunrise Service and Pastor Roger Otterson at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. The Easter Vesper Service will conclude what is expected to be a most blessed week with a triumphant contata, sung by the Sanctuary Choir, "The Redeemer," under the direction of Mr. Loren Buntrock.